

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

No. 7.

APRIL 1, 1846.

VOL. VII.

THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

*Extracted from the Narrative of an Exploring Expedition to the Rocky Mountains, &c.,
by Captain J. C. Fremont.*

August 12.—Early in the morning we left the camp, fifteen in number, well armed, of course, and mounted on our best mules. A pack animal carried our provisions, with a coffee-pot and kettle, and three or four tin cups. Every man had a blanket strapped over his saddle, to serve for his bed, and the instruments were carried by turns on their backs. We entered directly on rough and rocky ground; and, just after crossing the ridge, had the good fortune to shoot an antelope. We heard the roar, and had a glimpse of a waterfall as we rode along; and crossing in our way two fine streams, tributary to the Colorado, in about two hours' ride we reached the top of the first row or range of the mountains. Here, again, a view of the most romantic beauty met our eyes. It seemed as if, from the vast expanse of uninteresting prairies we had passed over, Nature had collected all her beauties together in one chosen place. We were overlooking a deep valley, which was entirely occupied by three lakes, and from the brink the surrounding ridges rose precipitously 800 and 1,000 feet, covered with the dark green of the balsam pine, relieved on the border of the lake with the light foliage of the aspen. They all communicated with each other; and the green of the waters, common to mountain lakes of great depth, showed that it would be impossible to cross them. The surprise manifested by our guides when these impassable obstacles suddenly barred our progress proved that they were among the hidden treasures of the place, unknown even to the wandering trappers of the region. Descending the hill, we proceeded to make our way along the margin to the southern extremity. A narrow strip of angular fragments of rock sometimes afforded a rough pathway for our mules, but generally we rode along the shelving side, occasionally scrambling up at a considerable risk of tumbling back into the lake.

The slope was frequently sixty degrees; the pines grew densely together; and the ground was covered with the branches and trunks of trees. The air was fragrant with the odour of the pines; and I realised this delightful morning the pleasure of breathing that mountain air which makes a constant theme of the hunter's praise, and which made us feel as if we had all been drinking some exhilarating gas. The depths of this unexplored forest were a place to delight the heart of a botanist. There was a rich undergrowth of plants and numerous gay-coloured flowers in brilliant bloom. We reached the outlet at length, where some freshly barked

willows that lay in water showed that the beaver had been recently at work. There were some small brown squirrels jumping about in the pines, and a couple of large mallard ducks swimming about in the stream.

The hills on this southern end were low, and the lake looked like a mimic sea, as the waves broke on the sandy beach in the force of a strong breeze. There was a pretty open spot, with fine grass for our mules; and we made our noon halt on the beach, under the shade of some large hemlocks. We resumed our journey after a halt of about an hour, making our way up the ridge on the western side of the lake. In search of smoother ground, we soon found ourselves again among the pines. Emerging from these, we struck the summit of the ridge above the upper end of the lake.

We had reached a very elevated point; and in the valley below, and among the hills, were a number of lakes at different levels; some 200 or 300 feet above others, with which they communicated by foaming torrents. Even to our great height, the roar of the cataracts came up, and we could see them leaping down in lines of snowy foam. From this scene of busy waters, we turned abruptly into the stillness of a forest, where we rode among the open bolls of the pines, over a lawn of verdant grass, having strikingly the air of cultivated grounds. This led us, after a time, among masses of rock which had no vegetable earth but in hollows and crevices, though still the pine forest continued. Towards evening, we reached a defile, or rather a hole in the mountains, entirely shut in by dark pine-covered rocks.

A small stream, with a scarcely perceptible current, flowed through a level bottom of perhaps eighty yards width, where the grass was saturated with water. Into this the mules were turned, and were neither hobbled nor picketed during the night, as the fine pasturage took away all temptation to stray; and we made our bivouac in the pines. The surrounding masses were all of granite. While supper was being prepared, I set out on an excursion in the neighbourhood, accompanied by one of my men.

We wandered about among the crags and ravines until dark, richly repaid for our walk by a fine collection of plants, many of them in full bloom. Ascending a peak to find the place of our camp, we saw that the little defile in which we lay communicated with the long green valley of some stream, which, here locked up in the mountains, far away to the south, found its way in a dense forest to the plains.

Looking along its upward course, it seemed to conduct by a smooth gradual slope, directly toward the peak, which, from long consultation as we approached the mountain, we had decided to be the highest of the range. Pleased with the discovery of so fine a road for the next day, we hastened down to the camp, where we arrived just in time for supper. Our table service was rather scant; and we held the meat in our hands, and clean rocks made good plates, on which we spread our maccaroni. Among all the strange places on which we had occasion to encamp during our long journey, none have left so vivid an impression on my mind as the camp of this evening. The disorder of the masses which surrounded us; the little hole through which we saw the stars overhead; the dark pines where we slept; and the rocks lit up with the glow of our fires, made a night picture of very wild beauty.

August 13—The morning was bright and pleasant, just cool enough to make exercise agreeable, and we soon entered the defile I had seen the preceding day. It was smoothly carpeted with a soft grass, and scattered over with groups of flowers, of which yellow was the predominant colour. Sometimes we were forced, by an occasional difficult pass, to pick our way on a narrow ledge along the side of the defile, and the mules were frequently on their knees; but these obstructions were rare, and we journeyed on in the sweet morning air, delighted at our good fortune in having found such a beautiful entrance to the mountains. This road continued for about three miles, when we suddenly reached its termination in one of the grand views which, at every turn, meet the traveller in this magnificent region. Here the defile up which we had travelled opened out into a small lawn, where in a little lake, the stream had its source.

There were some fine *asters* in bloom, but all the flowering plants appeared to seek the shelter of the rocks, and to be of lower growth than below, as if they loved the warmth of the soil, and kept out of the way of the winds. Immediately at our feet a precipitous descent led to a confusion of defiles, and before us rose the mountains as we have represented them in the annexed view. It is not by the splendour of far-off views, which have lent such a glory to the Alps, that these impress the mind, but by a gigantic disorder of enormous masses, and a savage sublimity of naked rock, in wonderful contrast with innumerable green spots of a rich floral beauty, shut up in their stern recesses. Their wildness seems well suited to the character of the people who inhabit the country.

I determined to leave our animals here, and make the rest of our way on foot. The peak appeared so near, that there was no doubt of our returning before night; and a few men were left in charge of the mules, with our provisions and blankets. We took with us nothing but our arms and instruments; and, as the day had become warm the greater part left our coats. Having made an early dinner we started again. We were soon involved in the most ragged precipices, nearing the central chain very slowly and rising but little. The first ridge hid a succession of others; and when, with great fatigue and difficulty, we had climbed up 500 feet, it was but to make an equal descent on the other side; all these intervening places were filled with small deep lakes, which met the eye in every direction, descending from one level to another, sometimes under bridges formed by huge fragments of granite, beneath which was heard the roar of the water. These constantly obstructed our path, forcing us to make long *detours*, frequently obliged to retrace our steps, and frequently falling among the rocks. Maxwell was precipitated toward the face of a precipice, and saved himself from going over by throwing himself flat on the ground. We clambered on, always expecting with every ridge that we crossed, to reach the foot of the peaks, and always disappointed, until about four o'clock, when, pretty well worn out, we reached the shore of a little lake, in which was a rocky island. We remained here a short time to rest, and continued on around the lake, which had in some places a beach of white sand, and in others was bound with rocks, over which the way was difficult and dangerous, as the water from innumerable springs made them very slippery.

By the time we had reached the further side of the lake, we found ourselves all exceedingly fatigued, and, much to the satisfaction of the whole party, we encamped. The spot we had chosen was a broad flat rock, in some measure protected from the winds by the surrounding crags, and the trunks of fallen pines afforded us bright fires. Near by was a foaming torrent, which tumbled into the little lake about 150 feet below us, and which, by way of distinction, we have called Island lake. We had reached the upper limit of the piney region; as, above this point, no tree was to be seen, and patches of snow lay everywhere around us on the cold sides of the rocks. The flora of the region we had traversed since leaving our mules was extremely rich, and, among the characteristic plants, the scarlet flowers of the *dodecatheon dentatum* everywhere met the eye in great abundance. A small green ravine, on the edge of which we were encamped, was filled with a profusion of alpine plants in brilliant bloom. From barometrical observations, made during our three days' sojourn at this place, its elevation above the Gulf of Mexico is 10,000 feet. During the day we had seen no sign of animal life; but among the rocks here, we heard what was supposed to be the bleat of a young goat, which we searched for with hungry activity, and found to proceed from a small animal of a grey colour, with short ears and no tail—probably the Siberian squirrel. We saw a considerable number of them, and with the exception of a small bird like a sparrow, it is the only inhabitant of this elevated part of the mountains. On our return, we saw, below this lake, large flocks of the mountain goat. We had nothing to eat to-night. Lajeunesse, with several others, took their guns and sallied out in search of a goat; but returned unsuccessful. At sunset, the barometer stood at 20.522; the attached thermometer 50 degrees. Here we had the misfortune to break our thermometer, having now only that attached to the barometer. I was taken ill shortly after we had encamped, and continued so until late in the night, with violent headache and vomiting. This was probably caused by the excessive

fatigue I had undergone, and want of food, and perhaps, also, in some measure by the rarity of the air. The night was cold, as a violent gale from the north had sprung up at sunset, which entirely blew away the heat of the fires. The cold and our granite beds had not been favourable to sleep, and we were glad to see the face of the sun in the morning. Not being delayed by any preparation for breakfast, we set out immediately.

On every side as we advanced was heard the roar of waters and of a torrent, which we followed up a short distance, until it expanded into a lake about one mile in length. On the northern side of the lake was a bank of ice, or rather of snow covered with a crust of ice. Carson had been our guide into the mountains, and agreeably to his advice, we left this little valley, and took to the ridges again; which we found extremely broken, and where we were again involved among precipices. Here were ice fields; among which we were all dispersed, seeking each the best path to ascend the peak. Mr. Preuss attempted to walk along the upper edge of one of these fields, which sloped away at an angle of about twenty degrees; but his feet slipped from under him, and he went plunging down the plane. A few hundred feet below, at the bottom, were some fragments of sharp rock, on which he landed; and though he turned a couple of somersets, fortunately received no injury beyond a few bruises. Two of the men, Clement Lambert and Descoteaux, had been taken ill, and lay down on the rocks a short distance below; and at this point I was attacked with headache and giddiness, accompanied by vomiting, as on the day before. Finding myself unable to proceed, I sent the barometer over to Mr. Preuss, who was in a gap 200 or 300 yards distant, desiring him to reach the peak, if possible, and take an observation there. He found himself unable to proceed further in that direction, and took an observation, where the barometer stood at 19° 40' 1"; attached thermometer 50 deg., in the gap. Carson, who had gone over to him, succeeded in reaching one of the snowy summits of the main ridge, whence he saw the peak, towards which all our efforts had been directed, towering eight hundred or one thousand feet into the air above him. In the meantime, finding myself grow rather worse than better, and doubtful how far my strength would carry me, I sent Basil Lajeunesse, with four men, back to the place where the mules had been left.

We were now better acquainted with the topography of the country, and I directed him to bring back with him, if it were in any way possible, four or five mules, with provisions and blankets. With me were Maxwell and Ayer; and after we had remained nearly an hour on the rock, it became so unpleasantly cold, though the day was bright, that we set out on our return to the camp, at which we all arrived safely, straggling in one after the other. I continued ill during the afternoon, but became better towards sundown, when my recovery was completed by the appearance of Basil and four men, all mounted. The men who had gone with him had been too much fatigued to return, and were relieved by those in charge of the horses; but in his powers of endurance Basil resembled more a mountain goat than a man. They brought blankets and provisions, and we enjoyed well our dried meat and a cup of good coffee. We rolled ourselves up in our blankets, and, with our feet turned to a blazing fire, slept soundly until morning.

August 15.—It had been supposed that we had finished with the mountains; and the evening before it had been arranged that Carson should set out at daylight, and return to breakfast at the Camp of the Mules, taking with him all but four or five men, who were to stay with me and bring back the mules and instruments. Accordingly, at the break of day they set out. With Mr. Preuss and myself remained Basil Lajeunesse, Clement Lambert, Janisse, and Descoteaux. When we had secured strength for the day by a hearty breakfast, we covered what remained, which was enough for one meal, with rocks, in order that it might be safe from any marauding bird; and, saddling our mules, turned our faces once more towards the peaks. This time we determined to proceed quietly and cautiously, deliberately resolved to accomplish our object if it were within the compass of human means. We were of opinion that a long defile which lay to the left of yesterday's route would lead us to the foot of the main peak. Our mules had been refreshed by the fine grass in the little ravine at the Island camp, and we intended to ride up the

defile as far as possible, in order to husband our strength for the main ascent. Though this was a fine passage, still it was a defile of the most rugged mountains known, and we had many a rough and steep slippery place to cross before reaching the end. In this place the sun rarely shone; snow lay along the border of the small stream which flowed through it, and occasional icy passages made the footing of the mules very insecure, and the rocks and ground were moist with the trickling waters in this spring of mighty rivers. We soon had the satisfaction to find ourselves riding along the huge wall which forms the central summits of the chain. There at last it rose by our sides, a nearly perpendicular wall of granite, terminating 2,000 to 3,000 feet above our heads in a serrated line of broken, jagged cones. We rode on until we came almost immediately below the main peak, which I denominated the Snow Peak, as it exhibited more snow to the eye than any of the neighbouring summits. Here were three small lakes of a green colour, each perhaps a thousand yards in diameter, and apparently very deep. These lay in a kind of chasm; and, according to the barometer, we had attained but a few hundred feet above the Island lake. The barometer here stood at 20.450, attached thermometer 70 deg.

We managed to get our mules up to a little bench about a hundred feet above the lakes, where there was a patch of good grass, and turned them loose to graze. During our rough ride to this place they had exhibited a wonderful surefootedness. Parts of the defile were filled with angular, sharp fragments of rock, three or four and eight or ten feet cube; and among these they had worked their way, leaping from one narrow point to another, rarely making a false step, and giving us no occasion to dismount. Having divested ourselves of every unnecessary encumbrance, we commenced the ascent. This time, like experienced travellers, we did not press ourselves, but climbed leisurely, sitting down so soon as we found breath beginning to fail. At intervals we reached places where a number of springs gushed from the rocks, and about 1,800 feet above the lakes came to the snow line. From this point our progress was uninterrupted climbing. Hitherto I had worn a pair of thick moccasins, with soles of *parfleche*; but here I put on a light thin pair, which I had brought for the purpose, as now the use of our toes became necessary to a further advance. I availed myself of a sort of comb of the mountain, which stood against the wall like a buttress, and which the wind and the solar radiation, joined to the steepness of the smooth rock, had kept almost entirely free from snow. Up this I made my way rapidly. Our cautious method of advancing in the outset had spared my strength; and, with the exception of a slight disposition to headache, I felt no remains of yesterday's illness. In a few minutes we reached a point where the buttress was overhanging, and there was no other way of surmounting the difficulty than by passing around one side of it, which was the face of a vertical precipice of several hundred feet.

Putting hands and feet in the crevices between the blocks, I succeeded in getting over it, and, when I reached the top, found my companions in a small valley below. Descending to them, we continued climbing, and in a short time reached the crest. I sprang upon the summit, and another step would have precipitated me into an immense snow-field 500 feet below. To the edge of this field was a sheer icy precipice; and then, with a gradual fall, the field sloped off for about a mile, until it struck the foot of another lower ridge. I stood on a narrow crest, about three feet in width, with an inclination of about 20 degs. N. 51 degs. E. As soon as I had gratified the first feelings of curiosity, I descended, and each man ascended in his turn; for I would only allow one at a time to mount the unstable and precarious slab, which it seemed a breath would hurl into the abyss below. We mounted the barometer in the snow of the summit, and, fixing a ramrod in a crevice, unfurled the national flag to wave in the breeze where never flag waved before. During our morning's ascent, we had met no sign of animal life except the small sparrow-like bird already mentioned. A stillness the most profound and a terrible solitude forced themselves constantly on the mind as the great features of the place. Here, on the summit, where the stillness was absolute, unbroken by any sound, and the solitude complete, we thought ourselves beyond the region of animated life; but while we were sitting on the rock, a solitary bee (*bromus, the*

Humble bee) came winging his flight from the eastern valley, and lit on the knee of one of the men.

It was a strange place, the icy rock and the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains, for a lover of warm sunshine and flowers; and we pleased ourselves with the idea that he was the first of his species to cross the mountain barrier—a solitary pioneer to foretell the advance of civilization. I believe that a moment's thought would have made us let him continue his way unharmed; but we carried out the law of this country, where all animated nature seems at war; and, seizing him immediately, put him in at least a fit place—in the leaves of a large book, among the flowers we had collected on our way. The barometer stood at 18,293, the attached thermometer at 44 degs.; giving for the elevation of this summit 13,570 feet above the Gulf of Mexico, which may be called the highest flight of the bee. It is certainly the highest known flight of that insect. From the description given by Mackenzie of the mountains where he crossed them, with that of a French officer still further to the north, and Colonel Long's measurements to the south, joined to the opinion of the oldest traders of the country, it is presumed that this is the highest peak of the Rocky Mountains. The day was sunny and bright, but a slight shining mist hung over the lower plains, which interfered with our view of the surrounding country. On one side we overlooked innumerable lakes and streams, the spring of the Colorado of the Gulf of California; and on the other was the Wind river valley, where were the heads of the Yellow-stone branch of the Missouri; far to the north, we just could discover the snowy heads of the *Trois Tetons*, where were the sources of the Missouri and Columbia rivers; and at the southern extremity of the ridge, the peaks were plainly visible, among which were some of the springs of the Nebraska or Platte river. Around us, the whole scene had one main striking feature, which was that of terrible convulsion. Parallel to its length, the ridge was split into chasms and fissures; between which rose the thin lofty walls, terminated with slender minarets and columns. According to the barometer, the little crest of the wall on which we stood was 3570 feet above that place, and 2780 above the little lakes at the bottom, immediately at our feet. Our camp at the Two Hills (an astronomical station) bore south 3 degs. east, which, with a bearing afterwards obtained from a fixed position, enabled us to locate the peak. The bearing of the *Trois Tetons* was north 50 degs. west, and the direction of the central ridge of the Wind river mountains south 39 degs. east. The summit rock was gneiss, succeeded by sienitic gneiss. Sienitic and feldspar succeeded in our descent to the snow line, where we found a feldspathic granite. I had remarked that the noise produced by the explosion of our pistols had the usual degree of loudness, but was not in the least prolonged, expiring almost instantaneously. Having now made what observations our means afforded, we proceeded to descend. We had accomplished an object of laudable ambition, and beyond the strict order of our instructions. We had climbed the loftiest peak of the Rocky Mountains, and looked down upon the snow a thousand feet below, and, standing where never human foot had stood before, felt the exultation of first explorers. It was about two o'clock when we left the summit; and when we reached the bottom, the sun had already sunk behind the wall, and the day was drawing to a close. It would have been pleasant to have lingered here and on the summit longer; but we hurried away as rapidly as the ground would permit, for it was an object to regain our party as soon as possible, not knowing what accident the next hour might bring forth.

We reached our deposit of provisions at nightfall. Here was not the inn which awaits the tired traveller on his return from Mont Blanc, or the orange groves of South America, with their refreshing juices and soft fragrant air; but we found our little cache of dried meat and coffee undisturbed. Though the moon was bright, the road was full of precipices, and the fatigue of the day had been great. We therefore abandoned the idea of rejoining our friends, and lay down on the rock, and, in spite of the cold, slept soundly.

THE JOINT STOCK COMPANY.

We hope that we shall not weary the patience of our readers by again recurring to this subject, which in our own estimation, and we would wish in others also, is one of daily increasing importance. We have said much before time on the advantages to be derived from the company, and we now desire to stimulate into activity all whose names (especially officially) are connected with the same.

Our much respected friend and zealous labourer in the cause, Samuel Downes, had the proud satisfaction, the other day, of bringing down to Liverpool applications for no fewer than TWO THOUSAND SHARES. We would say let others go and do likewise—let us see between this and the month of June, that others also have caught the same spirit, and let the fruits of their labours be made manifest at the General Conference.

It is written that, "the children of this world are, in their generation, wiser than the children of light," and we verily believe it; we have abundant proofs around us daily of the great faith in matters of speculation or business that is to be found amongst the people of the world. In this respect, we wish to see an alteration for the better among the Saints. They have men in their midst that have been tried, and well tried, for the truth's sake, before to-day; and if they have been faithful under adverse and difficult circumstances over a few things, do not fear to make them rulers over many. We, ourselves, have a confidence in God that does much to remove doubt and suspicion from our minds. We consider, that, when various schemes are set on foot, with an eye single to his glory, when they are devised in wisdom, asking his blessing upon them, we feel certain of the results; and, though difficulties may arise, we are assured that all things will be made subservient to the promotion of the great object in view.

We have thrown out the foregoing observations in order to arouse the Saints to action in so great and noble a cause. It will be found the only means by which the great body of the Saints from these, and, we dare venture to say, from other lands, can be enabled to fulfil the commandment of the Lord, to gather themselves together, and come out of Babylon in the last days. We would now say to all, let the Saints gather themselves together in their various districts; let them make applications for shares, and let them commence to pay the same forthwith into the hands of their treasurer, and let the secretary keep a very correct account of all monies received from each individual. We will send them as soon as we can, books and printed receipts in order to facilitate the business; but, in the mean time let there be no delay, but commence operations forthwith, that the results may be calculated to give much encouragement when we again meet in public conference.

We want in so great a cause men of much faith, activity, and diligence, and who manifestly care for the success of the Company, and show it by their works; and if individuals do not feel so, we would in all charity say, let them step aside, and make room for better men. We feel confident of one thing, which is this, that the labours of one and all will be made known in an especial manner in connexion with the Joint Stock Company. We know at the same time that many of the Saints will have much to learn in these matters, but every sincere well-wisher to the cause of God will show that he is anxious to learn, and to be qualified more effectively to labour for so good a purpose. Let then every effort be made, so that when we are assembled in public conference, we may know exactly how we stand, and what our prospects are; and also that we may be enabled to lay before the people such plans as shall be most calculated to carry into active and profitable operation the funds of the Company.

We have no doubt that many experienced considerable disappointment in consequence of the measures and plans adopted at the last General Conference not being carried into effect, but this was totally impracticable. We found ourselves in con-

tact with a new Act of Parliament, very strict and complicated in its requirements, and which had been passed in order the better to prevent fraud and imposition being practised upon shareholders. This Act had, therefore, to be our study, and the Saints will perceive at once how it was we could not give information which we had not ourselves attained. We shall, however, endeavour from time to time, and particularly in our General Conference, to lay before them all the information which we can relative to the formation of the Society, its rules, and also what is intended to be done in carrying it out into practical operation.

Many of the Saints of the last days are in comparatively poor circumstances, with regard to the wealth and good things of this world, neither have they had opportunities of becoming persons of business and trade; but, by the blessing of God, the Company, in its practical operations, will be a means of much instruction to many, and we trust also of delivering many from the shackles of poverty, and of making them free citizens of the kingdom of God.

We would say, therefore, to all and to each, be not content merely to observe and watch the labours of others, but take one share at least, if not more, (which even the poorest may do,) that you may feel yourselves associated with so great an undertaking for promoting the building up of the kingdom of God.

EDITOR.

CONFERENCE MINUTES.

Merthyr Tydvil, March 15 & 16, 1846.

Sunday at half-past ten A.M., the meeting was called to order. Elder D. Jones presided. After a few interesting preliminaries the presiding elders represented 24 branches, including 14 elders, 28 priests, 18 teachers, 11 deacons. Baptized in the last three months 102, making the total number of Saints in Wales to be 600. The elders represented the general state of the churches to be good, and the prospects flattering.

At Two P.M., held a Saints' meeting, which was well attended. Administered the sacrament; and the Saints bore strong and interesting testimonies of the wonderful goodness of God, in the language in which they were born; after which the president exhorted all to be faithful to the end, and showed the absolute necessity of union among the Saints, and of charity and humility, &c., and it was truly a time of refreshing, and it appeared that the only thing that disturbed the meeting was the Saints, at the least noise, glancing towards the door, constantly expecting, even to the last, the appearance of president Banks in our midst; but he, having been detained in coming from Bristol, arrived in time for the evening meeting. The news of his arrival having spread abroad, at 6 P.M. the Hall was thronged. After the usual ceremony by the president, he introduced president Banks to the audience—and to the chair by an unanimous vote.

President Banks, after a few complimentary remarks upon the peculiar circumstances under which he was placed in addressing a Welsh audience for the first time, showed that the great and glorious purposes of God in this "Dispensation of the fulness of times," was to prepare a people for His coming,—for glory, immortality, and eternal life; that in this great restoration of all things, a pure language should be restored also to all nations. He enlarged upon the beauties and glories of the kingdom with such eloquence, that it charmed the hearts and filled the souls of all who understood it with new life and vigour.

Elder Jones succeeded him, and translated the principle part of the discourse into Welsh, after which the meeting was dismissed by a benediction from president Banks.

Monday, 16.—Met at 11, A.M. President Banks presiding. Some unpleasant cases of aspiring spirits were examined and amicably adjusted, and the offenders restored to full confidence and fellowship, so that when the evening meeting closed, peace and universal restoration were established among all the Saints.

On motion of president Banks, "that Captain D. Jones preside over Merthyr Tydvil conference, in addition to his former presidency over Wales," it was carried unanimously,

and the meeting closed with thankful hearts to their heavenly Father for his goodness; and showering blessings upon president Banks for the wisdom, judgment, and mercy which he manifested, and his success in restoring that union and brotherly love which are so desirable, and pleasing to God, and all good Saints.

P.S. I should have stated that 4 elders, 8 priests, 9 teachers, and 4 deacons, were ordained in the evening meeting.

Tuesday Evening held open council. President Banks presided, and instructed the different officers on the importance of discharging their various duties faithfully, and the beauty and glory of the priesthood, &c.

Wednesday Evening. President Banks, in a very clear manner, showed the advantages that would result from the "Joint Stock Company," and the necessity of the same to the happiness of the Saints. Captain Jones translated, and several shares were taken—many paid for shares previously taken, and all seemed to be determined to do all they can for the advancement of this glorious institution, as well as for the gospel of Christ.

I am happy to say that, we have some of the noble spirits of the days of yore in our midst, the sons of noble sires, yes, from the unconquered race of mountain chiefs, who will go, two by two, in a very short time, and sound the trumpet through every part of Wales, until the aspiring summits of Cambria's hills shall echo the sound to every glen, and warn them faithfully. May the God of their fathers be propitious to them.

I have, dear brother, written these few items in great haste, that you may have some idea of what we are doing hereabouts. I am, dear brother, your obt. servant,

D. JONES.

MANCHESTER.

March, 15th 1846.

Dear brother Ward,—I herewith send you the minutes of the Manchester Conference, held on Sunday, March 15th, in Bridge-street room. From a letter we received a few days previous from elder Hedlock, we did not expect him nor any of the Liverpool authorities, but to our astonishment, a little before the meeting opened, our much esteemed and beloved brother Hedlock entered the room, which cheered every countenance. After our much respected brother had taken his seat, he was requested to take the presidency of the meeting, but declined doing so as he had much to say to the Saints, and by being freed from that office, his mind would be more fixed upon those things which he had to communicate to the Saints for their future welfare and well-being in the cause of truth.

Elder William Walker rose and called the meeting to order, and moved that elder J. D. Ross should preside over the meeting, which was seconded and carried unanimously.

Elder Ross moved that elder Wm. Walker act as clerk, which was carried.

The meeting was opened with singing, elder Hedlock engaged in prayer. After which the president called upon elder Hedlock to address the meeting. Brother Hedlock said he certainly had much to say to the Saints, but he thought it would not be well timed before the representations of the various branches was gone through, he felt desirous that the representation should be proceeded with.

The president called for the representation. Twenty-four branches were represented; their total number, including officers, were as follows:—1847 members, including 48 elders, 95 priests, 50 teachers, 28 deacons; 120 baptized since last conference.

The president called upon the delegates from the various branches to speak as to their present condition and if any alterations or ordinations were necessary, it might be attended to.

Elder William Walker rose to speak as to the condition of the Manchester church. He said he felt highly pleased and satisfied at the state of the Manchester church, but he had one thing to say, that since he had been elected president of the Manchester branch he had met with more opposition from his brethren in the priesthood than any other elder that had preceded him. Some might say, why, how is that? we verily thought you were at peace more so than ever you were before? Well, that's true. But I will explain myself. You recollect that when elder Milton Holmes retired, and appointed elder Ross to succeed him as president of the Manchester conference, it had been in the minds of some individuals that the officers composing the Manchester council, together with the members, were in possession of such an evil spirit they could not endure the thoughts of having one to preside over them taken from their midst. Now the officers of the Manchester church were determined to eradicate that feeling from the breast of every individual who was in possession of it, by choosing one from their midst. Now the opposition I have met with from my brethren in the priesthood is, they one and all have been determined I should have little or nothing to do, and this they have done by their united efforts to do the will of God,

which gives me great joy and satisfaction. I have now been a member of this church nearly five years, and a great portion of that time in the priesthood, but never at any time have I witnessed so much love, goodwill, peace and union, as have existed for the last twelve months; truly our council meetings are a source of great comfort and consolation, all being united hand and heart in the Redeemer's cause. I feel satisfied that my mode of acting up to the present has given satisfaction to my brethren; when the head is well, the body is generally well also; but if the head be sick the body is somewhat affected; if the head be right there is not much trouble with the body. The teachings of elder Downes, some few weeks back, upon the Joint Stock Company, seemed to have inspired their minds with a double portion of the Spirit of God, and my prayer is that peace and union may continue in our midst, that the work of God may roll on. Even so. Amen.

Elder Richard Cook spoke as to the condition of the Stockport branch. He said in the Stockport church there were some of the best of Saints; men and women of noble spirits. Generally speaking, they are united in the cause of God. Since elder Downes had laid before them the Joint Stock Company, their hearts seemed full of joy and gladness at the prospects of their deliverance. He said he felt it an honour to be associated with such a people, and his daily prayer was that God would preserve them, that all might continue faithful to the end.

Afternoon Service

Opened by singing, and prayer by elder Charles Miller. After the Lord's Supper was administered, the remainder of the branches were represented by the delegates: all appeared to be in good condition with the exception of Rochdale, which appears to be labouring under difficulties of an old standing. Elder Levi Rigg desired something might be done for that branch.

Elder Levi Crawshaw moved that Samuel Bussin be ordained to the office of priest in the Mottram branch. Seconded and carried.

Elder Barker proposed that Edward Greenhalgh be ordained to the office of priest in the Pendlebury branch. Seconded and carried.

The ordinations were attended to under the hands of elders Hedlock, Ross, and Miller.

Moved by elder Levi Crawshaw, that the Edgeworth Moor branch be connected with the Tottington branch. Seconded and carried.

The remainder of the afternoon was taken up by elder Hedlock giving instruction and exhorting the Saints to be faithful. He said the question might be, and is often asked, why all this persecution of the Saints? Why are these people again compelled to leave their homes and lands and flee to the mountains for safety. Certainly there must be a cause? The answer to such an enquiring mind is this. The sole cause of all this persecution is of a political character, aided and assisted by professing christians. The Saints in America being a free people, and locating themselves in a slave state, aroused the jealousy of the slave-owners, and likewise the governors; the gospel of Christ being calculated to emancipate the slave, and the Saints being a free people were allowed the free right of voting, which they considered unjust, and would at a future day work against their interest. The pure gospel of Christ as taught by the Saints of God, strikes at the very root of all systems now extant, therefore it has brought all sects and parties together to join in one common destruction of both life and property, and such has been the case up to the present day. He also spoke of the trials, difficulties, persecutions, and sore afflictions which the servants of God and the church in the states of America have had to pass through since its first organization of six members; but now, said he, the day is not far distant when the Saints will stand high amongst civilized society, and the nations of the earth will look upon the church with wonder and amazement at her prosperity, beauty, excellency, and perfection, and the day is not far distant when the Saints will have a high standing in the mercantile world: he said, there is wisdom and intelligence sufficient amongst the Saints of God to raise them to a pitch of eminence and wealth. The present movement of the Saints from Nauvoo to California, and the forming of the Joint Stock Company in England, show at once that the mighty hand of the Lord is in it. While they are crossing the Rocky Mountains, we at this side of the water are preparing to open a communication of trade, so that they may be enabled to build up a new state, and provide them with every necessary. All things seemed to work together for good. Let the world be silent but for a little while, and we will gain their favour, goodwill and esteem, and they cannot help it, because they will see we are an honest, industrious, well-disposed, and business-like body of men, and that all our transactions and dealings are just and upright; by this means thousands will be led to flock to the standard of truth, and gather with the Saints of God. He also spoke in relation to the Joint Stock Company, and some of the advantages that might be derived from it to the shareholders, and also to the poor Saints who could not extricate themselves, which drew tears of joy and gladness from many in the congregation.

The meeting was called upon to assemble again at six o'clock, that elder Hedlock might have a little more time allowed to address them, having to leave Manchester for Liverpool by the last train.

Evening.

Elder Hedlock addressed the Saints from the 5th chapter of Hebrews, it was truly an edifying discourse. He commenced with the promise of God made to Abraham, also the dealings of God with Moses, Elijah, down to Peter, James, and John; and last, though not least, the prophet Joseph Smith, showing the great work he had been called to perform, and the mighty and important consequences that must result therefrom.

Elder Hedlock left in order to take the train for Liverpool the same evening. The day was one which gave much satisfaction to all present.

W.M. WALKER,

President of the Branch of Manchester and Clerk of the Conference.

PRESTON.

Sunday, March 15, 1846.

The meeting being called to order, elder John Melling moved that elder John Holsall be president of this conference. Seconded by John Thornley, teacher, and carried unanimously. President elder Holsall then gave out the first hymn, when elder Speakman engaged in prayer; after which, John Fawley, priest, was chosen to act as clerk.

The third hymn was now sung, after which elder Holsall made the Saints understand that no one had come to the conference from the first presidency, wishing them not to be too much discouraged from this circumstance.

The officers present were then numbered. Elders, 9; priests, 10; teachers, 8; deacons, 3. Total number of members, 515.

Brother elder Melling represented the Preston branch to be in good standing, peace and unity reigning in the council meetings.

Elder Holsall made a few remarks on the necessity of ordaining a few officers to labour in this branch. He remarked that some were dead, others had emigrated, and he was sorry to say that some were negligent of their duty. He advised the officers to improve their minds in all useful knowledge, and to use all natural means in their power, to qualify themselves for the proper discharge of the important duties that devolved upon them. He gave much encouragement to the Saints, and prayed that God might bless them, and unite them together in unity and love.

Elder Melling then gave out the 31st hymn, and concluded with prayer. The meeting was adjourned until half-past two o'clock.

Afternoon Service.

The meeting was opened by elder Holsall giving out the 188th hymn; he then engaged in prayer. The 143rd hymn was then sung, after which the sacrament of the Lord's supper was administered. Elder Worsley asked a blessing upon the bread; brother John Knowles, priest, asked a blessing upon the wine. While the bread and wine were being administered, the choir sang three select hymns.

Elder Holsall gave instructions upon the priesthood—its importance—its authority and power—and encouraged the brethren who were about to be ordained to diligence and faithfulness in their respective offices.

Elder Holsall, president, moved that John Fawley, priest, be ordained to the office of elder, in the place of elder Gardner, deceased. Seconded, and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall, that Robert Huntington, priest, be ordained to the office of elder, in the place of elder John Carter, deceased. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that John Harrison, priest, be ordained to the office of elder, in the place of elder John Parker, emigrated. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Elder Melling said he felt one with the motions that had been made by elder Holsall. He moved that brother James Fisher be ordained to the office of priest. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Melling that James Brown, teacher, be ordained to the office of priest. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Melling that John Thornley, teacher, be ordained priest. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Melling that John Hunt, teacher, be ordained priest. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that John Topping, be ordained teacher. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that William Wignall be ordained to the office of teacher. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that brother Thomas Salisbury be ordained teacher. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall that James Hodson, priest, of Penwortham, be ordained to the office of elder, in place of elder John Melling, removed. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Moved by elder Holsall, that brother Robert Gregson be ordained to the office of priest, for Penwortham. Seconded and carried unanimously.

Each brother about to be ordained, expressed his determination, by the help of the Lord, to be diligent and faithful in the office to which he had been called.

President elder Holsall, elder Melling, and elder Speakman, conducted the above-mentioned ordinations.

The conference was now adjourned till it should be necessary to call another.

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow," &c., was then sung, when elder Speakman concluded with prayer.

The business of the conference was gone through in peace—unity and good feeling prevailed.

JOHN HOLSELL, President.

JOHN FAWLEY, Clerk.

LEAMINGTON.

March 30th, 1846.

Dear brother Ward,—Our conference was held yesterday, and I must say that it gives me great satisfaction when I think how the Lord has blessed our labours in this conference. I have been here about six months, and in that time we have baptized fifty-two into the kingdom of God. The first time I held a public meeting here, while giving my reasons for believing Joseph Smith to be a prophet of the Lord, and bearing my testimony to his character, a gentleman, in his great zeal for the Pope of Rome, struck at me, and tried to pull me off the platform; indeed for some time our meetings were interrupted, fixtures and windows broken, until we applied to the magistrates, who kindly sent the police, who took two of the men to prison, but at the request of the worthy magistrate, who gave them a severe reprimand, we did not press the charge; and I here wish to say that the conduct of the authorities of this town has been most praiseworthy, and I here thank them in the name of the Church, for their kindness in protecting us in the rights of Englishmen, as we can now hold our meetings in quietness, which are well attended, and many appear to be believing.

In and round the country the work is rolling on.

At Stratford-on-Avon we have a branch raised up by brother Freeman, who has had much to contend with, a few weeks since I went there and took a room for three months; I gave two lectures, which were well attended, and good attention was paid; but the priests and some of their friends thought it would disgrace their town to have the Mormons in a public room, so they took counsel, and with the help of a lawyer, and by telling a few falsehoods, locked us out of the room, so that when I went again I had to preach in the open air; and although a frosty night, we had a good attentive congregation; however, we have succeeded in taking another room, and expect soon to add to our numbers.

Brother Freeman at Stratford, and brother Waine at Bareford, have opened Sunday schools in each branch, and I think it will be productive of much good, as it preserves the children of the Saints from the taunts and insults of those who should know better, besides the benefit of the children being taught the principles of the gospel.

I have travelled much in this country, and there seems to be a great work commenced; we cannot supply the numerous calls for preaching that are made upon us.

I have found the Saints in this conference a kind and good people, and the officers willing to give heed to counsel, and do their utmost to roll on the work of God. Indeed, our prospects are most cheering, the Saints are rejoicing and looking forward to the time when all shall meet on Mount Zion, and rejoice in the goodness of the Lord, to whose name be all the glory.

Wishing you all in the Presidency every success in the cause of our God,

I remain, your brother in the gospel,

20, Chandos Street.

THOMAS SMITH.

Agreeably to appointment the Warwickshire Conference assembled in the Meeting-room, Leamington, on Sunday, March 29th. Elder Thomas Smith, President, and Elder John Lichorish, Clerk. The meeting was opened with singing and prayer. Officers present were, five elders, two priests, two teachers, and one deacon.

After the meeting had been addressed by the President, seven branches were represented, containing 163 members, including seven elders, nine priests, four teachers, and four deacons. Baptized since last conference, 38.

Several nominations to office were received by the conference, and their ordinations were attended to.

In the afternoon the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper being attended to, and some few having borne testimony to the work, the subject of the Joint Stock Company was then brought forward by the President, and spoken of by some of the brethren present, and several expressed their determination to make application for shares.

It was agreed to raise a subscription for the support of Brother Smith's family.

After the President had made a few remarks, and recommended the Saints to sympathize with the officers, and give them their support and confidence, &c., the meeting was closed with prayer, a good feeling having prevailed throughout the day.

THOMAS SMITH, President.
JOHN LICHORISH, Clerk.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE INDIAN CHARACTER.

Of the Choctaws, Bertram observes, "They were a hardy, subtle, brave, intrepid, ingenuous, and virtuous race. They erect a scaffold twenty feet high in a grave, upon which they lay their dead, and, after a sufficient time, the bones are placed in a coffin fabricated of bones and splints and deposited in the bone-house. The relations and a multitude follow with united voices, and alternate Hal-le-lu-yahs and lamentations."—*Bertram's Travels*, p. 514.

The same writer adds,— "The women are seldom above five feet; they are well formed, have round features, fine dark eyes, and are modest, subtle, and affectionate. The men are a full size larger than European; they are warlike, merciful, and haughty. They have had furious wars with the Spaniards."

"Those of the other confederate tribes are tall, finely-formed perfect figures; their countenance dignified, open, and placid; the eyes rather small, dark, and full of fire; the nose inclining to aquiline; the brow and forehead strike you with heroism, and their air and action exhibit magnanimity and independence; their complexion is reddish brown."—*Ibid.* p. 481.

Brackenridge says, "the government of Natchez is so strictly civilized, that it seems impossible for them to act out of the common high road of virtue."

The Rev. Mr. Cushman, in a discourse preached at Plymouth, New England, in 1620, intended to contradict the slanders which were prevalent against the primitive inhabitants, observes, "The Indians are said to be the most cruel and treacherous people—like lions; but to us they have been like lambs, so kind, and helpful, and trusty, that a man may truly say there be few christians so sincere and kind. When there were not six able persons among us, and the Indians came daily to us by hundreds, with their sachemes or princes, and might in one hour have made despatch of us, yet they never offered to us the least wrong in word or deed these many years."

"The history of the Brazilians, from the first incursions of the Spaniards to the year 1776, furnishes a long list of battles, evincive of a valor which no fatigue could weary, no danger dismay."

"The Brazil Indians are very numerous, and divided into clans; the degree of their independence depends on their distance from the Portuguese settlements.

They are generally of the middle size, muscular, and active, of a light brown complexion, black uncurling hair, and dark eyes, which discover no mark of imbecility of intellect. Nor does the turn of their countenance convey the least idea of meanness or vulgarity; on the contrary, their looks and expressions are intelligent. None, except the Auricanians, have been so difficult to subdue; none have discovered a more invincible attachment to liberty."

Latter-day Saints' Millennial Star.

APRIL 1, 1846.

WE rejoice much in the apparent activity of the churches in relation to the Joint Stock Company, we are glad that many are beginning to stir themselves in this most important business, the results of which will be, we hesitate not to say, beneficial not only to individuals personally interested therein, but most certainly to the whole of the kingdom of God.

We are also continually gratified by receiving intelligence of the progress of the principles of truth in the British Islands. Let the brethren give heed unto counsel and go forth, neither molesting nor persecuting any one, or meddling with their principles, but proclaim fearlessly the great first principles of salvation, and their success shall astonish even themselves, for their services will be acknowledged by heaven, and the blessing of God will be upon them.

EVIDENCE OF THE BOOK OF MORMON.

"The fact of the Mexicans recording, both in their paintings and songs, the Deluge, the building the tower of Babel, the confusion of tongues, and the dispersion, &c., being generally admitted by the Spanish writers on America, it is almost unnecessary to the authority of any particular author, to prove what no one will deny; since *Gomara*, in his history of the Indians, describing the conference of Nicaragua with *Gil Goncales* and the Calezcasters, introduces this chief as putting a variety of questions to the Spaniards. The first of which was, "whether they were acquainted with the Deluge," and others no less curious, showing that the Indians were not unaccustomed to abstruse speculation, and that besides the knowledge of many traditions contained in the Old Testament, they possessed some information respecting the New. It may be interesting to insert the entire passage of *Gomara*, giving an account of this conference. "Nicaragua, who was so acute and skilled in the knowledge of the rites and antiquities of his own countrymen, had a long conference with *Gil Goncales*, and the ecclesiastic. He inquired if the Christians were acquainted with the great Deluge which had swallowed up the earth, men and animals, &c.; and whether the earth was to be revolutionized, (*trastornar*) or the firmament to remove? When and how the sun, moon, and stars would be deprived of their light? What was the honour and reverence due to the triune God, &c., where souls go after death, and what would be their occupation, &c.

LETTER OF W. A. SMITH.

Halifax, Nova Scotia, March 2d, 1846.

Beloved Brother Woodruff,—I have enclosed in this letter, the sum of ten shillings sterling, for the purpose of paying a year's subscription for the *MILLENNIAL STAR*. If I am incorrect, as regards the price of the *STAR* per year, please inform me through its columns, and I will forward the balance. Since the *New York Messenger* has been discontinued, we have had little or no news from the West, and therefore you will confer a favour upon the subscriber by sending the back numbers of the *STAR*, from September 1st, 1845, up to the time the mail leaves Liverpool.

In consequence of being under age, and my father being very much opposed to the Saints, I have been prohibited from attending our meetings since the early part of November, except when I attended, as it were, clandestinely. I would not have allowed myself to be restrained from attending the meetings of the brethren if it would not have hurt others; but, in consequence of the business I was and am engaged in, others would have been hurt if I had made open resistance to the will of my parents. In the course of the ensuing summer the law of the land will make me independent of those who have blindly prohibited me from attending at the place appointed for the worship of the God of Heaven. Then, I shall be enabled, once more, with the help of Almighty God, to declare His revealed will to the children of men. In consequence of said prohibition, you will kindly oblige me by directing the *MILLENNIAL STAR* to a brother in whose house our meetings are held: that is *Mr. William Gumb, Gottingen-street, Halifax, N.S.*

The Saints here (the Halifax and Preston branches) being desirous to obey the commandments of Almighty God, "to gather," according to the advice of the "Twelve,"—they met in conference, in Halifax, on the 28th day of January last, for the purpose of considering the best mode of procedure, as regards emigration to Port St. Francisco, California, and after mature consideration they passed several resolutions relative to gathering. The plan which they considered most feasible is as follows:—"That the Saints who belong to Halifax, Preston, Pope's Harbour, and Onalow, in Nova Scotia, and the Charlotte town and Beddeque branches in Prince Edward's Island, and brother Russell, at Miramachi, N. B., agree to unite for the purpose of obeying the commandment, "to gather" and purchase a vessel of about 200 tons register, and, also, such an out-fit for the Saints as may be deemed necessary, and leave Halifax for Port St. Francisco, California, on or before September 1st next. A consequence of the above plan was, that a committee had to be appointed to address the Saints, in the above branches, upon the subject of gathering—which has been done. We are now waiting for their answer, acknowledging the receipt of our address, and acquiescing with the propositions contained therein.

Elder John Skerry, who belongs to this branch, went to P. E. Island, partly on business last fall, and the God of the Saints was pleased to make him the instrument of raising up a branch in November last, at Beddeque, in that Island, containing one elder, one priest, and ten members. If he could have stopped there this winter, he might have been engaged in various places, because he had numerous calls to preach from various parts of the island. The latest accounts from the island state, that the Beddeque branch had been enlarged by the addition of four members, and the Charlotte town branch by the addition of two members. They were all strong in the faith, and the spirit of moving was greatly manifested.

I baptized three persons in September last, and since then there has not been any addition to this branch.

This letter has grown larger than I had at first intended; but, as the Saints of the Most High God are always desirous to hear of the rolling forth of the glorious kingdom of the Lamb of God, I feel assured that it will be pleasing to you to hear of its progress in this part of our Redeemer's vineyard.

With sentiments of respect and esteem,

I subscribe myself your brother in the New and Everlasting Covenant,

WILLIAM A. SMITH.